

IN THE CLAIMS:

This following list of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the above-identified application:

List of Claims

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled.)

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A press shell for press fitting a tube end to a fitting body support shell comprising a tubular shell body (18) defined by an inner substantially right-cylindrical surface and an outer substantially right-cylindrical surface (20) each terminating at opposite terminal substantially annular axially oppositely facing surfaces, each said inner substantially right-cylindrical surface and said outer substantially right-cylindrical surface having a substantially identical diameter along the entire axial length of said tubular shell body between the opposite terminal substantially annular axially oppositely facing surfaces thereof, said shell body (18) being constructed from one of non-iron metal and non-iron metal alloy, and one of a wax layer and a solid lubricant layer (22) at least partially covering a right-cylindrical surface portion of said substantially cylindrical outer right-cylindrical surface (20) against which pressing forces of a pressing tool are applied for reducing friction during press fitting of the press shell to a fitting body support shell.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The press shell as defined in claim 3 wherein the layer covers substantially the entire outer right-cylindrical surface portion of the outer right-cylindrical surface (20) of said shell body (18).

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The press shell as defined in claim 3 wherein the layer covers substantially the entire outer right-cylindrical surface (20) of said shell body (18) between the axially oppositely facing annular surfaces thereof.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A fitting comprising a fitting body (12) having a support shell (14) for supporting the end of a tube (16) adapted to be connected thereto, a press shell (18) for press fitting of the a tube end (16) to said fitting body support shell (14), said press shell (18) including a tubular shell body (18) defined by an inner substantially right-cylindrical surface and an outer substantially right-cylindrical surface (20) each terminating at opposite terminal substantially annular axially oppositely facing surfaces, each said inner substantially right-cylindrical surface and said outer substantially right-cylindrical surface having a substantially identical diameter along the entire axial length of said tubular shell body between the opposite terminal substantially annular axially oppositely facing surfaces thereof, said shell body (18) being constructed from one of non-iron metal and non-iron metal alloy, and one of a wax layer and a

solid lubricant layer (22) at least partially covering a right-cylindrical surface portion of said substantially cylindrical outer right-cylindrical surface (20) against which pressing forces of a pressing tool are applied for reducing friction during press fitting of the press shell to a fitting body support shell.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The fitting as defined in claim 6 wherein the layer covers substantially the entire outer right-cylindrical surface portion of the outer right-cylindrical surface (20) of said shell body (18).

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The fitting as defined in claim 6 wherein the layer covers substantially the entire outer right-cylindrical surface (20) of said shell body (18) between the axially oppositely facing annular surfaces thereof.